



President Joe Biden signs a proclamation on the North Lawn at the White House in Washington, Friday, Oct. 8, 2021, during an event announcing that his administration is restoring protections for two sprawling national monuments in Utah that have been at the center of a long-running public lands dispute, and a separate marine conservation area in New England that recently has been used for commercial fishing.

Associated Press

Biden won't invoke executive privilege on Trump Jan. 6 docs

By ERIC TUCKER, MARY CLARE JALONICK and ZEKE MILLER

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Joe Biden will not block a tranche of documents sought by a House

committee's investigation into the Jan. 6 insurrection at the U.S. Capitol, setting up a showdown with former President Donald Trump, who has pledged to try to keep records from his time in the White House

from being turned over to investigators.

In a letter to the Archivist of the United States, White House counsel Dana Remus writes that Biden has determined that invoking executive privilege "is not

in the best interests of the United States." This comes days after Trump lawyers sought to block the testimony of former Trump officials to the House committee citing executive privilege. On Friday, a law-

yer for Steve Bannon said the former White House aide won't comply with the House committee's investigation because of Trump's claim.

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LIVE ENTERTAINMENT 7 DAYS A WEEK

SUNDAY:	MONDAY:	TUESDAY:	WEDNESDAY:	THURSDAY:	FRIDAY:	SATURDAY:
TICO KOCK STEEL DRUM 4 - 6pm	ANGELA FLORES VIOLINIST 6:30 - 8:30pm	JEAN PAUL SAXOPHONIST 6:30 - 8:30pm	PAULA RIDERSTAP SINGER 6:30 - 8:30pm	RICKY THOMAS GUITAR 7 - 9pm	RICKY THOMAS GUITAR 7 - 9pm	ANGELA FLORES VIOLINIST 6:30 - 8:30pm
PAULA RIDERSTAP SINGER 6:30 - 8:30pm	Happy Hour 12 - 1 / 4 - 6 / 9 - 10	PREMIUM BRANDS	KARAOKE HAPPY HOUR 9:00 - 11:00pm			

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Biden won't invoke executive privilege on Trump Jan. 6 docs

Continued from Front

In August, the House committee investigating the January insurrection at the Capitol asked for a trove of records, including communication within the White House under Trump and information about planning and funding for rallies held in Washington. Among those events was a rally near the White House featuring remarks by Trump, who egged on a crowd of thousands before loyalists stormed the Capitol.

In the letter, Remus writes that the documents reviewed "shed light on events within the White House on and about January 6 and bear on the Select Committee's need to understand the facts underlying the most serious attack on the operations of the Federal Government since the Civil War."

The Associated Press obtained a copy of the letter Friday, which was first reported by NBC News.

Copies of the documents responsive to the request were turned over to the Biden White House and Trump's lawyers for review for potential executive privilege concerns in accordance with federal law and the executive order governing presidential records. The committee's 10-page request to the Archives seeks "All documents and communications within the White House on January 6, 2021," related to Trump's close advisers and family



In this Aug. 20, 2020, file photo, President Donald Trump's former chief strategist Steve Bannon speaks with reporters in New York.

Associated Press

members, the rally at the nearby Ellipse and Trump's Twitter feed. It asks for his specific movements on that day and communications, if any, from the White House Situation Room. Also sought are all documents related to claims of election fraud, as well as Supreme Court decisions on the topic.

Biden's decision affects only the initial batch of documents reviewed by the White House. Press secretary Jen Psaki said subsequent determinations would be made on a case-by-case basis.

The incumbent president has the final say unless a court orders the Archives to take a different action. Trump has not formally

sought to invoke executive privilege over the documents, though that action is expected soon.

Trump is expected to take legal action to block the release of the documents, which if granted, would mark a dramatic expansion of the unwritten executive power. Trump will have an uphill battle, as courts have traditionally left questions of executive privilege up to the current White House occupant — though the former president's challenges could delay the committee's investigation. Two other witnesses subpoenaed by the panel, former White House Chief of Staff Mark Meadows and former Pentagon aide Kash Patel, are "engaging"

with the committee, according to its Democratic chairman, Mississippi Rep. Bennie Thompson, and Republican vice chairwoman, Rep. Liz Cheney of Wyoming. Thompson and Cheney issued a statement Friday after a deadline for document production had passed.

"Though the Select Committee welcomes good faith engagement with witnesses seeking to cooperate with our investigation, we will not allow any witness to defy a lawful subpoena or attempt to run out the clock, and we will swiftly consider advancing a criminal contempt of Congress referral," the two lawmakers said.

A spokesman for the panel

declined to comment on the status of a fourth witness, former Trump communications aide Dan Scavino.

Bannon's move sets the stage for a likely clash with House Democrats who are investigating the roles of Trump and his allies in the run-up to the riot, when a large mob of Trump supporters broke into the Capitol as Congress was certifying the results of the presidential election won by Democrat Joe Biden. The committee is rapidly issuing subpoenas to individuals who are either connected to Trump or who helped plan the massive rally on the morning of Jan. 6 at which he told his supporters to "fight like hell."

Bannon's refusal to comply, and Trump's vow to litigate the testimony, will mean certain delays in the panel's probe. But members of the committee, several of whom worked as prosecutors on Trump's two impeachments, were prepared for the possibility and have repeatedly threatened charging witnesses with contempt. Trump often successfully fought witness testimony during his presidency, but may find his legal standing shakier now that he is out of office. A committee effort to charge witnesses with contempt would likely involve a vote of the full House and a referral to the Justice Department. It would then be up to Justice how to proceed with charges. □



In this July, 2, 2003, file photo, a U.S. Marine Corps amphibious assault vehicle drives past a marked endangered species area as a black-necked Stilt, flies overhead at Red Beach on Camp Pendleton Marine Corps Base, Calif.

Associated Press

SAN DIEGO (AP) — The coronavirus pandemic that curtailed trainings in 2020 contributed to nine service

members drowning off San Diego's coast, according to a new military investigation into one of the Marine

Marines: Pandemic contributed to tragedy of troops' drowning

Corps' deadliest training accidents in recent years. Senior commanders leading up to the accident also were strapped with extra "nonstandard" missions including sending Marines to the U.S.-Mexico border as part of the Trump administration's tightening of border security and assisting with the Navy's hospital ship, the USNS Mercy, that anchored off Los Angeles to relieve hospitals over-

whelmed with coronavirus cases, according to investigation findings made public Wednesday. The amphibious assault vehicle sank on July 30, 2020, off San Clemente Island, trapping troops inside it. A previous investigation found the deaths were preventable and blamed the tragedy on inadequate training, shabby maintenance of the 35-year-old amphibious assault vehicles and poor

judgment by commanders. The families of the eight Marines and one sailor have filed a lawsuit against BAE Systems, the manufacturer of the amphibious assault vehicles, alleging the company knew for a decade or more about a design defect that makes it nearly impossible for troops to open the cargo hatches and escape the 26-ton amphibious vehicles when they sink. □

Americans agree misinformation is a problem, poll shows

By AMANDA SEITZ and HANNAH FINGERHUT

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Nearly all Americans agree that the rampant spread of misinformation is a problem.

Most also think social media companies, and the people that use them, bear a good deal of blame for the situation. But few are very concerned that they themselves might be responsible, according to a new poll from The Pearson Institute and The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research.

Ninety-five percent of Americans identified misinformation as a problem when they're trying to access important information. About half put a great deal of blame on the U.S. government, and about three-quarters point to social media users and tech companies. Yet only 2 in 10 Americans say they're very concerned that they have personally spread misinformation.

More, about 6 in 10, are at least somewhat concerned that their friends or family members have been part of the problem.

For Carmen Speller, a 33-year-old graduate student in Lexington, Kentucky, the divisions are evident when she's discussing the coronavirus pandemic with close family members. Speller trusts COVID-19 vaccines; her family does not.



In this Sept. 16, 2017, file photo, a person uses a smart phone in Chicago.

Associated Press

She believes the misinformation her family has seen on TV or read on questionable news sites has swayed them in their decision to stay unvaccinated against COVID-19.

In fact, some of her family members think she's crazy for trusting the government for information about COVID-19. "I do feel like they believe I'm misinformed. I'm the one that's blindly following what the government is saying, that's something I hear a lot," Speller said. "It's come to the point where it does create a lot of tension with my family and some of my friends as well."

Speller isn't the only one

who may be having those disagreements with her family. The survey found that 61% of Republicans say the U.S. government has a lot of responsibility for spreading misinformation, compared with just 38% of Democrats.

There's more bipartisan agreement, however, about the role that social media companies, including Facebook, Twitter and YouTube, play in the spread of misinformation.

According to the poll, 79% of Republicans and 73% of Democrats said social media companies have a great deal or quite a bit of responsibility for misinfor-

mation. And that type of rare partisan agreement among Americans could spell trouble for tech giants like Facebook, the largest and most profitable of the social media platforms, which is under fire from Republican and Democrat lawmakers alike.

"The AP-NORC poll is bad news for Facebook," said Konstantin Sonin, a professor of public policy at the University of Chicago who is affiliated with the Pearson Institute. "It makes clear that assaulting Facebook is popular by a large margin — even when Congress is split 50-50, and each side has its own reasons."

During a congressional hearing Tuesday, senators vowed to hit Facebook with new regulations after a whistleblower testified that the company's own research shows its algorithms amplify misinformation and content that harms children.

"It has profited off spreading misinformation and disinformation and sowing hate," Sen. Richard Blumenthal, D-Conn., said during a meeting of the Senate Commerce Subcommittee on Consumer Protection. Democrats and Republicans ended the hearing with acknowledgement that regulations must be introduced to change the way Facebook amplifies its content and targets users.

The poll also revealed that Americans are willing to blame just about everybody but themselves for spreading misinformation, with 53% of them saying they're not concerned that they've spread misinformation.

"We see this a lot of times where people are very worried about misinformation but they think it's something that happens to other people — other people get fooled by it, other people spread it," said Lisa Fazio, a Vanderbilt University psychology professor who studies how false claims spread. "Most people don't recognize their own role in it."

White House proposes tech 'bill of rights' to limit AI harms

By MATT O'BRIEN

AP Technology Writer

Top science advisers to President Joe Biden are calling for a new "bill of rights" to guard against powerful new artificial intelligence technology.

The White House's Office of Science and Technology Policy on Friday launched a fact-finding mission to look at facial recognition and other biometric tools used to identify people or assess their emotional or mental states and char-

acter. Biden's chief science adviser, Eric Lander, and the deputy director for science and society, Alondra Nelson, also published an opinion piece in Wired magazine detailing the need to develop new safeguards against faulty and harmful uses of AI that can unfairly discriminate against people or violate their privacy. "Enumerating the rights is just a first step," they wrote. "What might we do to protect them? Possibilities include

the federal government refusing to buy software or technology products that fail to respect these rights, requiring federal contractors to use technologies that adhere to this 'bill of rights,' or adopting new laws and regulations to fill gaps." This is not the first time the Biden administration has voiced concerns about harmful uses of AI, but it's one of its clearest steps toward doing something about it. European regulators have already



In this Jan. 16, 2021 file photo, Eric Lander speaks during an event at The Queen theater in Wilmington, Del.

Associated Press

taken measures to rein in the riskiest AI applications. Proposed regulations outlined by European Union officials this year would ban some uses of AI, such

as government use of real-time scanning of facial features in public spaces, and tightly control others that could threaten people's safety or rights.

Fort Hood launches effort to address sexual assault, suicide

By ACACIA CORONADO
and LOLITA C. BALDOR
Associated Press

FORT HOOD, Texas (AP) — U.S. Army officials unveiled a new resource and training center at Fort Hood on Thursday that aims to create a more supportive culture following reports of murder, suicide and sexual assault at the embattled Texas military installation. The People First Center will provide resources and support for soldiers who are victims of sexual assault or have had suicidal thoughts, and will aim to prevent such problems by training Fort Hood leaders on how to properly respond, Army officials said during a tour of the facility. The center will become fully operational in 2022.

Lt. Gen. Gary Brito, the Army's deputy chief of staff for personnel, who attended the tour, said he hoped the changes implemented at Fort Hood and elsewhere would provide "a very cordial, comfortable environment, responsive to any soldiers and victims, in a coordinated location, with experts that can also assist in other areas as well." The center is expected to provide training and resources on how to prevent sexual harassment and assault, as well as how to respond to allegations. Training and support services will also be available on equal



U.S. Army Deputy Chiefs of Staff Lt. Gen. Gary Brito, left, and Col. William Zielinski, discuss the People First Center, a new training and resource facility at Fort Hood, Texas on Thursday, Oct. 7, 2021.

Associated Press

opportunities, suicide prevention, substance abuse and spirituality.

An independent review of Fort Hood — prompted by the deaths of more than two dozen soldiers at the base in 2020 — revealed that military leaders were not adequately dealing with high rates of sexual assault and harassment, drug use and other problems. It also concluded that the Army Criminal Investigation Division was understaffed, overwhelmed and filled

with inexperienced investigators, and that female soldiers feared retaliation and compromised confidentiality if they filed complaints. In April, U.S. Army officials disciplined 21 officers and non-commissioned officers, including firing eight senior commanders, related to the murder of Spc. Vanessa Guillén, who was killed at Fort Hood in April 2020. According to Guillén's family, she had been harassed in the months before her death.

Fort Hood officials said Thursday that some additional recommendations have been put in place for the base while others still needed to be implemented, but did not provide details of programs to address soldiers' concerns about how reports of sexual assault and harassment are handled at the Texas base. Brito said the People First Task Force was working to change these systems across the Army informed by data collected from pi-

lot programs at other bases to address sexual assault and harassment reporting. He is one of the chairs of the panel.

"I know some goodness will come out of it over time, by doing this right, the intellectual energies behind it and more importantly the passion of leadership behind it," Brito said. The task force has helped to implement dozens of recommendations from the independent review. The People First Task Force has also established pilot programs at six other Army facilities that aim to improve services for soldiers who report sexual harassment or assault.

Col. Kelly Webster, deputy director of the People First Task Force, told reporters Wednesday that the program would allow soldiers to report assaults outside their chain of command, while providing resources such as victim advocates, chaplains, health care workers and more.

Being allowed to go outside the chain of command has been a common request; Soldiers have said their reports are sometimes ignored or belittled by unit commanders, who often know the victim and alleged assailant. Kelly said the program would also reduce the possibility of a commander retaliating against a soldier who reports an assault. □



A woman looks at vases full of white flowers, that are part of an installation of one-thousand-fifty vases filled with white flowers, representing 1,050 lives lost by gun violence in New York last year, while they are displayed at Battery Park, Thursday, Oct. 7, 2021, in New York.

By MARK SCOLFORO
Associated Press
HARRISBURG, Pa. (AP) — The governors of four northeastern states agreed Thursday to share

information about firearms purchases to help detect and investigate straw buyers and other gun crimes. Chief executives in Connecticut, New Jersey,

4 northeastern states team up to share gun crime information

New York and Pennsylvania signed an agreement to exchange gun crime data for use only by law enforcement, with provisions governing security and mandated notice if the information is misused or improperly accessed. "Despite our best gun safety laws, we have more damn guns on the street than we ever had before," Connecticut Gov. Ned Lamont said in an online announcement with the other three states. "And if you're not taking guns seriously, you're not taking

law and order seriously." New Jersey Gov. Phil Murphy said about 85% of guns recovered by police in his state over a recent six-month period came from other states. "None of us on the screen here are blind to the fact that our individual states' gun laws are only as good as those in the rest of our neighborhood," Murphy said. Murphy has regularly pointed to gun control legislation he has signed as he seeks reelection this year in New Jersey. He's also promised, if reelect-

ed, to mandate safety courses for those seeking gun permits, require lockboxes to store firearms and make gun manufacturers liable for the harm caused by their products. The states plan to share details they get from the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives through "eTrace" reports that show who first bought and sold guns recovered during criminal investigations. The states can also share gun data that predates the Thursday agreement. □

More than 130 countries reach deal on corporate minimum tax

By **DAVID McHUGH and DANICA KIRKA**
Associated Press
FRANKFURT, Germany (AP)

— More than 130 countries have agreed on sweeping changes to how big global companies are taxed, including a 15% minimum corporate rate designed to deter multinationals from stashing profits in low-tax countries.

The deal announced Friday is an attempt to address the ways globalization and digitalization have changed the world economy. It would allow countries to tax some of the earnings of companies located elsewhere that make money through online retailing, web advertising and other activities.

U.S. President Joe Biden has been one of the driving forces behind the agreement as governments around the world seek to boost revenue following the COVID-19 pandemic. The agreement among 136 countries representing 90% of the global economy was announced by the Paris-based Organization for Co-operation and Economic Development, which hosted the talks that led to it. The OECD said that the minimum tax would reap some \$150 billion for governments.

"Today's agreement represents a once-in-a-generation accomplishment for economic diplomacy," U.S. Treasury Secretary Ja-



In this June 7, 2017 file photo, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) headquarters is pictured in Paris, France.

net Yellen said in a statement. She said it would end a "race to the bottom" in which countries outbid each other with lower tax rates.

"Rather than competing on our ability to offer low corporate rates," she said, "America will now compete on the skills of our workers and our capacity to innovate, which is a race we can win."

The deal faces several hurdles before it can take effect. U.S. approval of related tax legislation proposed by Biden will be key, especially since the U.S. is home to many of the biggest multinational companies. A rejection by Congress would

cast uncertainty over the entire project.

The big U.S. tech companies like Google and Amazon have supported the OECD negotiations. One reason is that countries would agree to withdraw individual digital services taxes they have imposed on them in return for the right to tax a part of their earnings under the global scheme.

That means the companies would deal with just the one international tax regime, not a multitude of different ones depending on the country.

"This accord opens the way to a true tax revolution for the 21st century,"

said French Finance Minister Bruno Le Maire. "Finally the digital giants will pay their just share in taxes in the countries — including France — where they produce."

On Thursday, Ireland announced that it would join the agreement, ditching a low-tax policy that has led companies like Google and Facebook to base their European operations there.

Although the Irish agreement was a step forward for the deal, developing countries have raised objections and Nigeria, Kenya, Pakistan and Sri Lanka have indicated they will not sign up.

Anti-poverty and tax fairness advocates have said the bulk of new revenue would go to wealthier countries and offer less to developing countries that are more dependent on corporate taxes. The G-24 group of developing countries said that without a bigger share of revenue from reallocated profits, the deal would be "sub-optimal" and "not sustainable even in the short run."

The deal will be taken up by the Group of 20 finance ministers next week, and then by G-20 leaders for final approval at a summit in Rome at the end of October.

Countries would sign up to a diplomatic agreement to implement the tax on companies that have no physical presence in a country but earn profits there, such as through digital services. That provision would affect around 100 global firms.

The second part of the deal, the global minimum of at least 15%, would apply to companies with more than 750 billion euros (\$864 billion) in revenue and be passed into domestic law by countries according to model rules developed at the OECD. A top-up provision would mean tax avoided overseas would have to be paid at home. So long as at least the major headquarters countries implement the minimum tax, the deal would have most of its desired effect. □

'Our imagination was violated': France to return African art

By **ANGELA CHARLTON**
Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — French President Emmanuel Macron said Friday that his country will return 26 African artworks — royal thrones, ceremonial altars, revered statues — to Benin later this month, part of France's long-promised plans to give back artwork taken from Africa during the colonial era. Discussions have been under way for years on returning the artworks from the 19th century Da-

homey Kingdom. Called the "Abomey Treasures," they currently are held in the Quai Branly Museum in Paris. The museum, near the Eiffel Tower, holds thousands of works from former French colonies. Macron said the 26 pieces will be given back at the end of October, "because to reconstitute these works to Africa is to give African young people access to their culture." It remains unclear when exactly they will arrive in Benin. "We need to be honest

with ourselves. There was colonial pillage, it's absolutely true," Macron told a group of African cultural figures at an Africa-France gathering in the southern city of Montpellier. He noted other works already were returned to Senegal and Benin, and the restitution of art to Ivory Coast is planned. "Africa has been married to France in a forced marriage for at least 500 years," Kouoh said. "The work (on mending relations) that should have



In this Friday, Nov. 23, 2018 file photo a visitor looks at wooden royal statues of the Dahomey kingdom, dated 19th century, at Quai Branly museum in Paris, France.

Associated Press

been done for decades is possible that we find ourselves here in 2021." □

IS bomber kills 46 inside Afghan mosque, challenges Taliban

By **SAMYA KULLAB** and **TA-MEEM AKHGAR**

Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)

— An Islamic State suicide bomber struck at a mosque packed with Shiite Muslim worshippers in northern Afghanistan on Friday, killing at least 46 people and wounding dozens in the latest security challenge to the Taliban as they transition from insurgency to governance.

In its claim of responsibility, the region's IS affiliate identified the bomber as a Uygher Muslim, saying the attack targeted both Shiites and the Taliban for their purported willingness to expel Uyghers to meet demands from China. The statement was carried by the IS-linked Aamaq news agency.

The blast tore through a crowded mosque in the city of Kunduz during Friday noon prayers, the highlight of the Muslim religious week. It was the latest in a series of IS bombings and shootings that have targeted Afghanistan's new Taliban rulers, as well as religious institutions and minority Shiites since U.S. and NATO troops left in August. The blast blew out windows, charred the ceiling and scattered debris and twisted metal across the floor. Rescuers carried one body out on a stretcher and another in a blanket. Blood stains covered the



People inspect the inside of a mosque following a bombing in Kunduz province northern Afghanistan, Friday, Oct. 8, 2021.

front steps.

A resident of the area, Hussaindad Rezayee, said he rushed to the mosque when he heard the explosion, just as prayers started. "I came to look for my relatives, the mosque was full," he said.

The worshippers targeted in Friday's were Hazaras, who have long suffered from double discrimination as an ethnic minority and as followers of Shiite Islam in a majority Sunni country.

The Islamic State group and the Taliban, who seized control of the country with the exit of the foreign troops, are strategic rivals. IS militants have targeted Taliban positions and at-

tempted to recruit members from their ranks.

In the past, the Taliban managed to contain the IS threat in tandem with U.S. and Afghan airstrikes. Without these, it remains unclear whether the Taliban can suppress what appears to be a growing IS footprint. The militants, once confined to the east, have penetrated the capital of Kabul and other provinces with new attacks.

This comes at a critical moment, as the Taliban attempt to consolidate power and transform their guerrilla fighters into a structured police and security force. But while the group attempts to project an air of

authority through reports of raids and arrests of IS members, it remains unclear if it has the capability to protect soft targets, including religious institutions.

In Kunduz, police officials were still picking up the pieces Friday at the Gozar-e-Sayed Abad Mosque. Taliban spokesman Bilal Karimi told The Associated Press that 46 worshippers were killed and 143 wounded in the explosion. He said an investigation was under way. The death toll of 46 is the highest in an attack since foreign troops left Afghanistan.

The United Nations mission in Afghanistan condemned the attack as "part of a

disturbing pattern of violence" targeting religious institutions.

A prominent Shiite cleric, Sayed Hussain Alimi Balkhi, called on the Taliban to provide security for the Shiites of Afghanistan. "We expect the security forces of the government to provide security for the mosques since they collected the weapons that were provided for the security of the worship places," he said.

Dost Mohammad Obaida, the deputy police chief in Kunduz pledged to protect minorities in the province. "I assure our Shiite brothers that the Taliban are prepared to ensure their safety," he said.

The new tone struck by the Taliban, at least in Kunduz, is in sharp contrast to the well-documented history of Taliban fighters committing a litany of atrocities against minorities, including Hazaras. The Taliban, now feeling the weight of governing, employed similar tactics to those of IS during their 20-year insurgency, including suicide bombings and shooting ambushes. And they have not halted attacks on Hazaras.

Earlier this week, a report by Amnesty International found the Taliban unlawfully killed 13 Hazaras, including a 17-year-old girl, in Daykundi province, after members of the security forces of the former government surrendered. □



In this Thursday Aug. 12, 2021 file photo, Karim Ahmed Khan, International Criminal Court chief prosecutor, speaks during a news conference at the Ministry of Justice in the Khartoum, Sudan.

Associated Press

THE HAGUE, Netherlands

(AP) — International Criminal Court judges decided

Friday to ask the United Nations Secretary-General for information on who

ICC judges seek UN clarification on Afghanistan rulers

represents Afghanistan at international bodies following the Taliban's sweep to power in August.

The request is intended to clarify the status of Afghanistan's new leadership as judges prepare to rule on a request by the global court's new prosecutor last month for permission to resume an investigation into alleged war crimes and crimes against humanity linked to Afghanistan's conflict since 2002.

In a written ruling, judges said that "for several rea-

sons including the fast pace of relevant developments, and the short time elapsed since they materialized, there is still a large margin of uncertainty as to the legal implications of those events, including for the purposes of international law and international relations."

The judges also asked the court's Assembly of States Parties for the same clarification. Afghanistan is a member, or state party, of the court.

Judges authorized an inves-

tigation in March last year covering offenses allegedly committed by Afghan government forces, the Taliban, American troops and U.S. foreign intelligence operatives dating back to 2002. The probe was put on the back burner when Afghanistan's government asked to take over the case. The ICC is a court of last resort, set up in 2002 to prosecute alleged atrocities in countries that cannot or will not bring perpetrators to justice — known as the principle of complementarity. □

Mexico and U.S. working to build new security framework

By CHRISTOPHER SHERMAN
Associated Press

MEXICO CITY (AP) — High-level delegations from Mexico and the United States were at work Friday on building a new security framework for the bilateral relationship that they hope will govern how the two countries cooperate on a broad range of issues.

The so-called U.S.-Mexico Bicentennial Framework for Security, Public Health and Safe Communities seeks to move beyond the 13-year-old Merida Initiative that focused on building Mexico's crime-fighting capabilities and rule of law projects.

"It's time for a comprehensive approach to our security cooperation, one that will see us as equal partners in defining our shared priorities, tackle the root drivers of these challenges like inequity, like corruption and focus not only on strengthening law enforcement, but also public health, the rule of law, inclusive economic opportunities," U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken said Friday.

Mexico Foreign Affairs Secretary Marcelo Ebrard put



Mexican President Andrés Manuel López Obrador, right, speaks during a working breakfast with Secretary of State Antony Blinken at the National Palace in Mexico City, Friday, Oct. 8, 2021.

Associated Press

it more succinctly: "Good-bye Merida, Bicentennial agreement."

The two governments' joint declaration devoted considerable space to treating drug addiction — especially opioids — and its societal effects in the public health context, a significant departure from Merida's emphasis on the criminal jus-

tice system.

The U.S. pledged to devote more resources to identify and treat people affected by opioids and Mexico committed to working with the United Nations to launch a program to better manage shipping containers to limit the importation of chemical precursors for synthetic drugs like fen-

tanyl. Mexico seized an estimated 1.3 tons of the synthetic opioid last year. That same year, the U.S. recorded 93,000 drug overdose deaths.

The governments committed to targeting importers of chemical precursors for fentanyl and methamphetamine, their financial net-

works and secret labs.

They also said they would work together to reduce the trafficking of guns, a high priority for violence-wracked Mexico, and to provide more opportunities to youth to make it harder for criminal organizations to recruit them.

"We need to deal with the violence, dismantle the transnational criminal organizations and focus on prevention with the goal of creating the conditions for a culture of peace, while we work hand-in-hand to address the fundamental causes of crime," the joint statement said.

Mexico's Public Safety Secretary, Rose Icela Rodríguez Velázquez said, "for many years, the issue of Mexico's security has been addressed from the point of view that it's only measured by the use of force, now we are combatting the causes that originate that violence with social programs, intelligence and coordination, listening to men and women in their towns, their municipalities and communities." □

U.N.: 10,000 displaced as clashes escalate over key Yemen city

By SAMY MAGDY
Associated Press

ABOARD GEO BARENTS (AP)

— Fighting over the key Yemeni city of Marib has displaced around 10,000 people in the past month, the U.N. migration agency said Thursday. The clashes escalated as Yemen's Iran-backed Houthi rebels intensified their push to take the provincial capital from government forces.

Yemen has been convulsed by civil war since 2014, when the Houthis captured the capital, Sanaa, and forced the country's president, Abed Rabbo Mansour Hadi, and the internationally recognized government to flee to the south, and then later to Saudi Arabia.

The International Organization for Migration said the newly displaced —



Tents fill the al-Suwayda camp for displaced persons on the outskirts of Marib, Yemen, Monday, June 21, 2021.

Associated Press

the highest monthly tally recorded so far this year — bring to around 170,000 the number of people who have fled fighting in and around the city of Marib and the surrounding province, also called Marib, as well as two nearby provinces, since the beginning of 2020. The tally was recod-

ed in six of Marib province's 14 districts, the IOM said.

After seizing control of several districts and cities in nearby provinces in 2020, the Houthis began their march on Marib in February, with the aim of capturing the city to complete their control over northern Yemen. □



Taste limitless possibilities at Infini, where Chef Urvin Croes and his team explores without boundaries and steps with both feet outside of the box to create his most sensational dishes yet. This meticulously designed restaurant located inside Blue Residences on scenic Eagle Beach is a chef's table concept with limited seating where diners are able to interact with the staff and other guests alike throughout the evening.

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Some regions require proof or certification of negative COVID-19 status before allowing people into or out of the country. With rules and guidelines varying greatly from country to country, the safest approach is to have recent proof you are COVID-19 negative before you get to the airport. Covid Test Center @ Paseo provides both PCR and Antigen type testing with results within hours; and both are accepted by the CDC.

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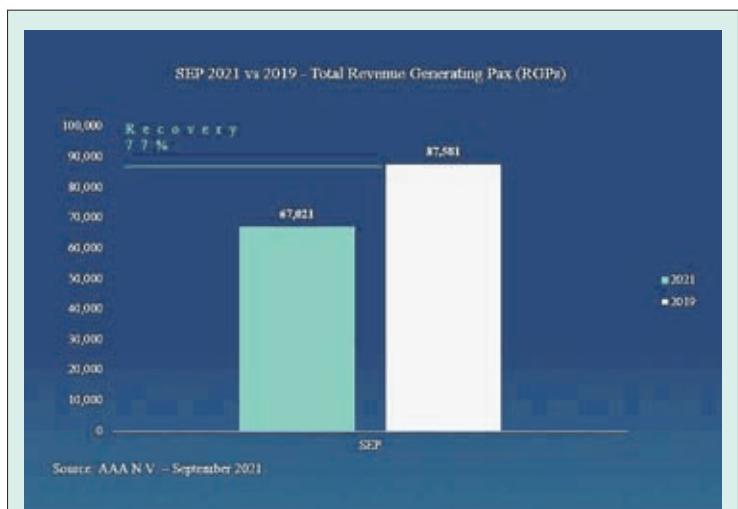
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67,021 Passengers departed in September

ORANJESTAD - Aruba Airport Authority N.V. (AAA) can report as follows on AUA Airport's performance for September 2021; a known shoulder month for the airport with a satisfying recovery rate versus the same period in 2019.

In September 2021, AUA Airport handled 67,021 departing passengers. This was 32% less than the month before. During the past month AUA Airport recovered 77% of the amount of departing passenger that were handled in 2019 during that same month. In September 2021 50,889 passengers (pax) travelled to the US, 6,466 pax to Europe, 2,663 pax to the Netherlands Antilles, and 6,574 pax to Latin America.

An average outbound passenger load factor (PLF) (number of seats of the total seats on board an aircraft that are occupied when departing from AUA Airport) for the US Market of 70% was reported during the month of September 2021, while the average PLF for all markets was at 71% during that same period (in comparison to 2019 where the PLF for all markets of 85% was reached).

During the past month, AUA Airport averaged 26 flights per day, down from 32 daily flights during the same period in 2019. In that same period in 2020 we only handled a total amount of 218 flights whilst our national border re-opened in July of 2020 for all commercial operations.



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Aruba's underwater wonderland

ORANJESTAD - Exploring the underwater wonders is something you should definitely do during your stay in Aruba. The underwater world has everything to offer that makes a snorkel trip so exceptional; an impressive, colorful sea life with exotic fishes, turtles and beautiful coral reef. The historic shipwrecks, located on the Aruban seabed are also worth a visit. Aruba is known for its white beaches and blue oceans, which means there are many fascinating underwater spots, where you can take your snorkeling gear and we selected the top spots for you.

Tres Trapi

Tres Trapi means tree steps in Papiamentu, Papiamentu is together with Dutch the official language spoken on Aruba. The beach is called Tres Trapi because it is accessible by the tree steps carved into the rocks. Tres Trapi is a small rocky beach, located on the north-western side of the island, approximately 5 to 10 minute drive from Palm Beach. From the unique steps you can easily walk over the beach into the clear and turquoise blue ocean. While snorkeling you will encounter all kind of tropical fishes and sea stars. The kind of starfish you will find in the Aruban waters is the red cushion sea star. This is a starfish that is commonly found in the shallow waters of the Caribbean sea and if you are lucky during your snorkeling visit to Tres Trapi, you may come across one of the green sea turtles. Respect the animal, keep your distance and enjoy the view. Also remember; it is a once

in a life time experience.

Antilla shipwreck

Antilla is a 400-foot-long long ship, built in 1939 in Hamburg, Germany. Antilla came to Aruba, because it had to find a neutral port. When Germany invaded the Netherlands on May 10, 1940, the crew decided to let their own ship sink, to prevent it from falling into the hands of the Dutch Navy. Antilla lies on its portside in Malmok bay, and the sunken world war two ship is now one of Aruba's most popular snorkeling and dive spots. However, the ship wreck can only be reached by boat. The ship is visible from the surface and during your snorkeling trip you be surrounded by hundreds of tropical fishes, but the ship wreck alone is already impressive enough.

Baby Beach

Baby beach; a white beach, with a crystal blue ocean. The beach is located on the southern part of the island. On the way to the famous beach, you will drive through the old capital of Aruba, San Nicolas. The old Aruban culture can be still felt and experienced here, so do not hesitate to get out of your car and walk around for a while. Baby beach is a child friendly beach, since it is shallow and the water has a pleasant temperature. The name therefore fits well with the beach. Baby beach is an excellent beach for snorkeling, especially if you want to go with small children, because the water re-



mains shallow and there are still many underwater wonders to see. In the ocean there is an area marked until where it is recommended to snorkel and on the beach you will find different facilities. It is a perfect beach to spend your day snorkeling and relaxing.

Mangel Halto

Mangel Halto beach is located in Savaneta, on the southern-west part of the island. The beach is different from the other beaches in Aruba; it is beach full of mangroves. You reach the beach by a bridge through the mangroves and then you will have several entrances to the sea. There are diverse spots where you can enjoy a perfect beach day, wooden stairs made to enter the water and a dock to sit on and enjoy the view. Mangel Halto is also worth a visit for the snorkeling experience. Inside the bay, the water is clear and you find many colorful fish. Outside the bay is a bit more challenging for beginners because of the wind and the waves, but the coral is alive and it is just like snorkel heaven. □



Blue Residences: Work & pleasure in paradise

EAGLE BEACH — Dreaming of your own private Caribbean sanctuary is a reality now. Allow us to define this: Blue Residences offers you a condo or penthouse with top notch amenities equal to the offerings of high-class resorts facing the Caribbean Sea, the white-powdered sands of Eagle Beach. According to the Travelers Choice Beaches Award, it is one of the top 25 beaches in the world. And if you don't believe them, you can always read the thousands of positive reviews on TripAdvisor.

Blue Residences is situated in front of The Bubali Plas bird sanctuary and one of the biggest reservoirs on the island. It's also within walking distance to Palm Beach, home of the high-rise luxury hotels. The location is unequalled on the island with a

variety of water sports concessions, casinos, restaurants, bars and shops just a leisurely stroll away.

The onsite amenities include pools, hot tub, restaurant, landscaped sun-deck, fitness center, full service spa and concierge service.

The project has three towers which contains 60 two-bedroom, two-bath units; 32 three-bedroom, three-bath units; 8 one bedroom, one bathroom unit; 4 four-bedroom, four-bath duplex townhouses; 2 five-bedroom, five-and-a-half-bath duplex townhouses; 12 three-bedroom, four-bath duplex penthouses; and 6 five-bedroom, five-and-a-half-bath duplex penthouses.

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Office is set for you

Did you know Aruba has the best internet connection in the whole of the Caribbean?

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Trump hotel lost \$70M despite millions in foreign business

By **BERNARD CONDON**

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Former President Donald Trump's company lost more than \$70 million on his Washington, D.C., hotel during his four years in office despite taking in millions from foreign governments, according to documents released Friday by a congressional committee investigating his business.

The House Committee on Oversight and Reform said the luxury hotel just a few blocks from the White House was struggling so badly that the Trump Organization had to inject \$27 million from other parts of its business and got preferential treatment from a major lender to delay payments on a \$170 million loan.

The committee said the losses came despite an estimated \$3.7 million in revenue from foreign governments, business that ethics experts say Trump should have refused because it posed conflicts of interest with his role as president.

The Trump Organization said in a statement that the findings of the Democrat-led committee were misleading and false, and it did not receive any special treatment from a lender.

"This report is nothing more than continued political harassment in a desperate attempt to mislead the American public and defame Trump in pursuit



In this Jan. 15, 2021 file photo, extra security barricades are outside the Trump Hotel in Washington. Associated Press

of their own agenda," the company said.

The documents from the committee, the first public disclosure of audited financial statements from the hotel, show steep losses despite a brisk business from lobbyists, businesses and Republican groups while Trump was in office.

The alleged loan delay by Deutsche Bank to the president was an "undisclosed preferential treatment" that should have been reported by the president because the bank has substantial business in the U.S., the committee said in a letter to the General Services Administration, the federal agency overseeing the hotel. The hotel is leased by

the federal government to the Trump Organization.

"The documents ... raise new and troubling questions about former President Trump's lease with GSA and the agency's ability to manage the former president's conflicts of interest during his term in office when he was effectively on both sides of the contract, as landlord and tenant," the committee's Democratic co-chairs, Carolyn Maloney of New York and Gerald Connolly of Virginia, wrote in their letter. The GSA did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

For its part, Deutsche Bank said in a statement that the committee made "several

inaccurate statements" about the loan agreement but declined to elaborate, citing loan privacy concerns.

The committee's letter to the GSA said the hotel losses contradict the "exaggerated image of financial success" that the president was portraying in the personal financial disclosure reports he sent to a federal ethics agency each year. But those reports require only revenue to be disclosed, not profits, an apples-to-oranges comparison that one of Trump's sons seized upon in a tweet blasting the committee.

"Please learn the difference between Gross Revenue and Net Profit before

writing us long letters," Eric Trump wrote, calling the committee "incompetent." Trump's company has been trying to sell the 263-room hotel since the fall of 2019 but has struggled to find buyers during the coronavirus pandemic at a reported initial asking price of more than \$500 million.

The head of government ethics watchdog CREW said the losses shed new light on Trump's refusal to ban foreign governments from patronizing his business.

"The only lifeline was the corrupt business coming from people and organizations and governments seeking to influence him," said Noah Bookbinder, president of Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington. "His use of the presidency to get business was absolutely essential to stemming the flow of losses."

To allay concerns about conflict of interest, Trump promised to send payments to the U.S. Treasury on foreign government earnings from his business annually. The committee said the Washington hotel payments under this deal totaled more than \$350,000 in the first three years of his presidency. Critics of the voluntary deal say Trump's definition of earnings is unclear and gave the president plenty of room to lowball the figure. □

Google cracks down on climate change denial by targeting ads

By **KELVIN CHAN**

AP Business Writer

LONDON (AP) — Google is cracking down on digital ads promoting false climate change claims or being used to make money from such content, hoping to limit revenue for climate change deniers and stop the spread of misinformation on its platforms.

The company said Thursday in a blog post that the new policy will also apply to YouTube, which last week announced a sweeping crackdown of vaccine misinformation.

"We've heard directly from a growing number of our advertising and publisher partners who have expressed concerns about ads that run alongside or promote inaccurate claims about climate change," Google said. "Advertisers simply don't want their ads to appear next to this content."

Publishers and creators on YouTube "don't want ads promoting these claims to appear on their pages or videos," according to Google.

The restrictions "will prohibit ads for, and monetization

of, content that contradicts well-established scientific consensus around the existence and causes of climate change," the blog post said.

Along with addressing publishers' frustrations, the changes are also apparently intended to counter online influencers who monetize, or make money from, YouTube videos promoting climate change denial theories by putting ads on them.

Limits will be placed on content calling climate change a hoax or denying that greenhouse gas emis-



In this Sept. 24, 2019, file photo, a woman walks below a Google sign on the campus in Mountain View, Calif.

Associated Press

sions and human activity have contributed to the earth's long-term warming, the company said. □

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

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Yesterday's answer

DOWN

1 Deep

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2 Arm

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3 In the

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4 Printer's

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5 Diner

desserts

6 Pop's

daughter

7 Jazz

genre

8 Stirring

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9 Science

officer on

TV

10 Agreement

16 Social

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18 Rendez-

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20 Blue hue

22 Grant

23 Inveigles

24 Fleet

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25 Tilted

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28 Poker

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30 Politician's

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31 Squelch

32 Fragrance

34 Deep mud

36 Golf goal

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10-9

A X Y D L B A A X R
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

10-9

CRYPTOQUOTE

P`SR QJVR PI J LZPKI KRSG

IZ DRJGK QU EZBJD ERBXGPIU

K X Q W R G W R B J X E R P`Q J

LRGEZK, KZI J KXQWRG, M.

GZEE LRGI

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: THINGS ON THE WHOLE ARE MUCH FASTER IN AMERICA. PEOPLE DON'T "STAND FOR ELECTION"; THEY "RUN FOR OFFICE." JESSICA MITFORD



In this July 22, 2021, spot fires smolder near trees damaged by the Bootleg Fire in Paisley, Ore. Associated Press

Impact of forest thinning on wildfires creates divisions

By DON THOMPSON

Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP) — Firefighters and numerous studies credit intensive forest thinning projects with helping save communities like those recently threatened near Lake Tahoe in California and Nevada, but dissent from some environmental advocacy groups is roiling the scientific community.

States in the U.S. West and the federal government each year thin thousands of acres of dense timber and carve broad swaths through the forest near remote communities, all designed to slow the spread of massive wildfires.

The projects aim to return overgrown forests to the way they were more than a century ago, before land managers began reflexively extinguishing every wildfire as soon as possible.

Efforts now include using fire to fight fire, with fires deliberately set in the cooler, wetter months to burn out dangerous fuels, or backfires set in the path of encroaching wildfires. Forest managers credit such burns with helping protect the Giant Forest in Sequoia National Park.

While most scientific studies find such forest management is a valuable tool, environmental advocates say data from recent gigantic wildfires support their long-running assertion that efforts to slow wildfires have instead accelerated their spread. The argument is fueling an already passionate debate.

It has led to a flurry of citations of dueling scientific studies and has fed competing claims that the science may be skewed by ideology.

The debate came to a head over this year's giant Bootleg Fire in southern Oregon.

"Not only did tens of thousands of acres of recent thinning, fuel breaks, and other

forest management fail to stop or slow the fire's rapid spread, but ... the fire often moved fastest through such areas," Los Padres ForestWatch, a California-based nonprofit, said in an analysis, joined by the John Muir Project and Wild Heritage advocacy groups.

James Johnston, a researcher with Oregon State University's College of Forestry, called the groups' conclusions "pretty misleading," "irresponsible" and "self-contradicting."

"Claims that modern fuel-reduction thinning makes fire worse are not credible," Johnston said.

The debate focused on a project where the Klamath Tribes and The Nature Conservancy have spent a decade thinning smaller trees and using planned fires.

They and the U.S. Forest Service said the treatments slowed the fire's spread and lessened its intensity, while critics said the blaze made its fastest northern run through the same area, spreading 5 miles (8 kilometers) in about 13 hours.

Scientists say climate change has made the American West much warmer and drier and will continue to make weather more extreme and wildfires more frequent and destructive, accelerating the need for more large-scale forest treatments.

Critics say forest thinning operations are essentially logging projects in disguise.

Opening up the forest canopy and leaving more distance between trees reduces the natural humidity and cooling shade of dense forests and allows unimpeded winds to push fire faster, said Chad Hanson, forest and fire ecologist with the John Muir Project.

Such reasoning defies the laws of physics, said other experts: Less fuel means less severe fire. Fewer trees means it's more difficult for fires to leap from treetop to treetop. □

Swiss-backed project aims to avert new 'Cold War' in science

By JAMEY KEATEN

Associated Press

GENEVA (AP) — Switzerland's foreign minister says concerns about a "new Cold War" over science and technology are a major reason behind the creation of a new think tank that looks out for future advances and development so that the whole world can benefit, not just rich countries.

Ignazio Cassis delivered a video message for the inaugural "summit" on Thursday and Friday of the Geneva Science and Diplomacy Anticipation, or GESDA, a Swiss government-backed project that aims to bridge government policy and science in an international city known for both.

"There is a growing feeling that a new Cold War is about to be fought over science and technology, and the power they confer to the states that master them," he said. GESDA, which brings together hundreds of scientists and policymakers worldwide, would serve as an "honest broker" that helps spread the benefits of science to countries rich and poor, he said.

"What we are trying to achieve with GESDA is new, and hence, difficult: To link anticipation that looks far ahead, with action that is immediate is a major challenge in itself," Cassis said.

While conceived in 2019, GESDA has started to look prescient during the COVID-19 pandemic that caught many governments off guard, drew an uncertain or unclear response by health policy makers like the Geneva-based World Health Organization, and has exposed gaping in-



Patrick Aebischer, GESDA Vice Chairman, Nanjira Sambuli, Policy Analyst and Advocacy Strategist, Kenya, Peter Brabeck-Letmathe, GESDA Chairman, Choh Chuan Tan, Chief Health Scientist, Singapore, left and right, and Swiss Federal Councilor Ignazio Cassis on the screen in recorded video, speaks about the first Geneva Science and Diplomacy Anticipation Summit 2021 (GESDA), during a press conference at the Campus Biotech in Geneva, Switzerland, Thursday, October 07, 2021.

Associated Press

equality between the rich countries that have wide access to vaccines and poor countries that don't. Pandemic preparedness projects and monitoring bodies have popped up in places like Europe and the United States since the outbreak, and the Biden administration has shown interest in the GESDA project and its focus on anticipating future trends and developments.

Alondra Nelson, deputy director for science and soci-

ety for the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy, noted U.S. President Joe Biden has spoken about today's moment "of great peril and great promise," and she said governments should be bold about both innovation and partnership.

"I think that the Anticipation anticipatory frame is a fantastic possibility for working this through," she said by videoconference from Washington on Thursday. □



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Lashana Lynch on making history as 007 in 'No Time to Die'

By JAKE COYLE

AP Film Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Lashana Lynch was in stunt training when she found out she was going to play a 00 agent in the James Bond film "No Time to Die."

Lynch had already been cast by director Cary Joji Fukunaga and the producers, Barbara Broccoli and Michael Wilson. But who she was to play had remained a mystery to her. She was doing her best to prep for an undetermined but apparently butt-kicking role.

"Nothing made sense. I'm plunged into stunts and they're teaching me everything under the sun," Lynch said in an interview. "And I'm like: Why are you teaching me this? What does it mean?"

Instead, Lynch just heard bits and pieces as she went. It felt, she says, like a TV series that carefully reveals a little each episode. Only when she was in the midst of summersaulting and firing fake guns did the full reveal come. Lynch would be the first Black woman to play a 00 agent in the six decades of James Bond movies.

Not only that, Lynch's character, Nomi, takes the codename 007, with Daniel Craig's James Bond AWOL and out of the British Secret Service.

"Auditioning for a mysterious film and a mysterious



Lashana Lynch poses for a portrait to promote the film "No Time to Die" on Sunday, Oct. 3, 2021, in New York.

Associated Press

character turned into a possible Bond film and mysterious character," Lynch recalls. "That turned into definite Bond film and the possibility of someone entering and creating a really beautiful storm."

"No Time to Die," which opened in U.S. theaters on Friday, is Craig's fifth and final performance as the super spy. But the film, perhaps more than any previous Bond movie, derives much of its punch from its women. That includes Léa Seydoux, as Bond's most lasting romance and a character with her own complicated history, and

Ana de Armas, in a brief but action-packed appearance.

Lynch's role, though, is a landmark in the franchise. With that history has come a brighter spotlight than ever before on the 33-year-old British Jamaican actor, who played a single-mother fighter pilot in "Captain Marvel." Lynch has been widely celebrated for expanding the historically homogenous world of Bond in a role that — like others who have brought wider representation to decades-old franchises — has also brought online hostility. When news first leaked

in 2019 that Lynch would be 007, her Instagram lit up with racist and misogynistic comments.

"I was reminded of the institution that I was walking into and the world that doesn't support people like me, necessarily," Lynch says.

"Once I got through that initial reaction, I plunged straight into work. I turned that energy into stunts, into filming, into spending time with family and also reevaluating how I use my phone. I now put them in cupboards. I take two-hour breaks."

"It's something that should

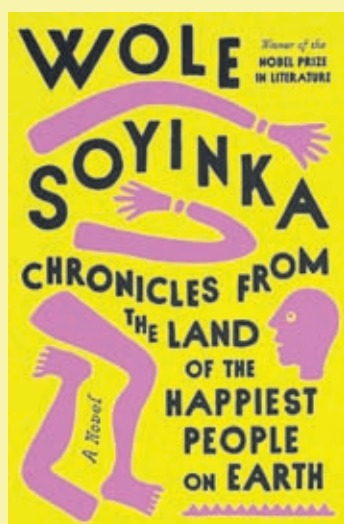
always be brought up," she adds of the response. "Young people need to hear it."

Lynch first caught Broccoli's attention in Debbie Tucker Green's "Ear for Eye," a play at the Royal Court that Broccoli produced. Lynch was part of a largely Black ensemble that give individual testimonies of bias they experience in their lives.

"I was just blown away by her," says Broccoli, who also produced an upcoming film adaptation of "Ear for Eye," co-starring Lynch, premiering Oct. 16 at the London Film Festival. "She's an extraordinary, beautiful, talented actor. She seemed an obvious choice for Nomi, the 00 character. I think she's a big star."

Before Craig took over Bond, Lynch says, she had had little relationship to the Bond films. But being invited to audition, she says, made her feel she was maybe entering the franchise at the right time.

In "No Time to Die," Bond eventually returns to the service where he's surprised to learn his trademark number has been taken. What follows between him and Nomi is part rivalry, part partnership. Nomi asserts herself, with proud confidence and moments of uncertainty. Bond adapts to her. To Lynch, she's most proud of how Nomi's strength doesn't also come with vulnerability. □



This cover image released by Pantheon shows "Chronicles From the Land of the Happiest People on Earth" by Nobel Prize recipient Wole Soyinka.

Associated Press

Review: Soyinka writes a crime thriller and political satire

Associated Press

"Chronicles From the Land of the Happiest People on Earth," by Wole Soyinka (Pantheon) With "Chronicles From the Land of the Happiest People on Earth," Nobel Prize winner Wole Soyinka has created an exceedingly unique tale, one that feels as if it has a tone and genre all its own. In this gruesome crime thriller meets political and religious satire,

high-ranking leaders in a fictionalized Nigeria are part of a vast underground business selling human body parts, which are believed to hold supernatural qualities. Surgeon Kighare Menka is horrified when he is invited to join this grisly network. While there are many subplots, the story largely follows Menka as he clings desperately to his own morality while navigating a world filled

with seemingly endless horrors and violence. For those willing to work to untangle the dense language and complex storylines that weave their way through the novel, "Chronicles From the Land of the Happiest People on Earth" could very well be considered a great novel. It's sharp commentary on how corruption can infect a nation is powerful, and it is rich with humor, irony,

and plot twists. Nevertheless, the style and language make it exceedingly difficult to grasp. It is easy to get lost in the multitude of characters and crisscrossing narratives. For those willing to ride the wave and who are seeking a story that challenges them, it could make a great choice. However, it isn't right for those looking for a light or easily digestible read. □

Tyson Fury promises knockout finish to epic Wilder trilogy

By **GREG BEACHAM**

AP Sports Writer

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Tyson Fury understands that the most memorable boxers are also talented promoters, and he has sold his heavyweight trilogy finale against Deontay Wilder with a showman's flair.

The unbeaten British champion has taunted and tweaked Wilder throughout the buildup to their climactic showdown for the WBC title Saturday night in Las Vegas, usually doing it while shirtless in a bespoke suit jacket. Fury's confidence and charisma in the fighters' public meetings throughout the protracted process of getting to this weekend have convinced much of the boxing world they're about to see another crowning — and one more violent mauling.

"He's in denial and he's getting knocked out," Fury said. "His legacy is in bits. I knocked him out, and now I'm going to retire him."

Beneath Fury's promotional theatrics is an undercurrent of frustration, however.

Fury is weary of Wilder's bizarre antics and a bit annoyed by the boxing machinations that forced him into a third edition of a fight he feels he already won twice. Although Fury is confident in his superior skills, he realizes Wilder's one-punch power is formidable, leaving him vulner-



Tyson Fury poses during a news conference in advance of his heavyweight title boxing bout against Deontay Wilder, in Las Vegas on Wednesday, Oct. 6, 2021.

able to all of his hard work being erased in an instant. And though Fury (30-0-1, 21 KOs) will make millions from this pay-per-view show at T-Mobile Arena on the south end of the Las Vegas Strip, Wilder's insistence on holding the rematch prevented Fury from getting the fight he really wanted against fellow British champion Anthony Joshua.

Fury also feels a certain amount of empathy because he believes Wilder (42-1-1, 41 KOs) is going through some of the same mental health battles Fury fights every day, problems that threatened to derail

his entire career heading into the first fight of this trilogy.

This highly entertaining matchup has already featured two dramatic endings, but Fury is determined to finish the whole thing with an authority that will stamp him as the most accomplished heavyweight of this era.

"We're expecting nothing less than a knockout," said Sugarhill Steward, Fury's trainer.

The rivalry began in late 2018 when Fury met Wilder at Staples Center in Los Angeles. The matchup was intriguing because of the

contrast between Wilder's ferocious power and Fury's all-around skills, but Fury outboxed Wilder for long stretches and would have won by decision except for two knockdowns, including a 12th-round stunner that left Fury motionless on his back while Wilder celebrated an impossibly dramatic turn of events.

Fury somehow got up and reached the bell, and the judges' scorecards came back in a draw. Both fighters immediately looked toward a rematch, but boxing politics delayed it until early 2020.

Fury then utterly dominat-

ed the second bout, battering Wilder with his superior skill set until Wilder's corner threw in the towel in the seventh round in Las Vegas. It was only Fury's second stoppage victory since 2014, and it served as a culmination of Fury's evolution from a 6-foot-9 hulk into one of the most technically skilled heavyweights in recent memory.

Fury thought that beating settled the score, and while he doesn't mind the massive payday of this trilogy finale, the 33-year-old is wisely thinking about his legacy and the bouts he needs to secure it.

"I hope he brings a better fight, because the last fight was disappointing, to say the least," Fury said.

"I trained for an absolute war, and it was a one-sided beatdown, so hopefully he can give me a challenge." Wilder claims he has "nothing to prove" in the bout, even though he stubbornly exercised his rematch clause after his loss and persisted through an arbitration process that forced Fury to call off an already-announced showdown with Joshua in Saudi Arabia during the summer. The fight was initially scheduled for July before a COVID-19 outbreak in Fury's camp forced a three-month postponement into the heart of the busy fall combat sports schedule. □

Associated Press

Netherlands beats Latvia 1-0 in World Cup qualifying Group G

RIGA, Latvia (AP) — Davy Klaassen scored the only goal as the Netherlands beat Latvia 1-0 to solidify its position at the top of Europe Group G in World Cup qualifying as Turkey and Norway played out a 1-1 in Istanbul.

Midfielder Klaassen scored his eighth international goal in the 19th minute, easing into space and volleying home a corner from the right by Memphis Depay.

A minute later, Klaassen was in action at the other end, blocking a shot by Roberts Uldriķis after a

quick break by Latvia. "We should have been better. But three points are very important for qualification," captain Virgil van Dijk told Dutch broadcaster NOS. The results left the Netherlands two points ahead of second-placed Norway. The hosts were largely content to defend against a Dutch team that had scored 22 goals in six matches going into the qualifier in Riga. The Netherlands pushed forward throughout the match but after Klaassen's strike could not find a way through the

Latvian defense. Substitutes Noa Lang and Ryan Granvenberch had shots blocked in the second half and Depay curled a shot wide as the Dutch attack failed to fire.

Latvia pushed players forward in the closing minutes and substitute Igors Tarasovs almost snatched a point for the home team in second-half stoppage time, but Justin Bijlow made a good save. Second-placed Norway, playing without injured striker Erling Haaland, went a goal down to Turkey thanks to a sixth-minute



Netherlands' Davy Klaassen celebrates a goal during the World Cup 2022 group G qualifying soccer match between Latvia and the Netherlands at the Daugava stadium in Riga, Latvia, Friday, Oct. 8, 2021.

Associated Press

strike by Kerem Aktürkoğlu in Istanbul before Kristian Thorstvedt levelled in the

41st. Montenegro beat Gibraltar 3-0 in the day's other Group G match. □

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